

LEJEUNE HALL

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER





"The major factor of true military discipline consists of securing the voluntary cooperation of subordinates, thereby reducing the number of infractions of the laws and regulations to a minimum [and] by laying down the doctrine that the true test of the existence of a high state of discipline in a military organization is found in its cheerful and satisfactory performance of duty under all service conditions."

John A. Lejeune

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE, USMC, 1918

Painting by Joseph Cummings Chase
Collection of the Smithsonian Institution



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
DEDICATION
PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER

APRIL 28, 1982

Accomplishing the mission of the Naval Academy—to prepare young men and women morally, mentally, and physically to be professional officers in the naval service—requires equal and unrelenting attention to this triad. No officer better represents a successful blend of these attributes than Lieutenant General John A. Lejeune, an 1888 graduate of the Naval Academy who became the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps. It is most fitting that the first building to be named after a Marine at the United States Naval Academy be dedicated in his honor. Designed to hone physical fitness and survival skills through a focus on swimming, martial arts training, and wrestling, Lejeune Hall formally opens its doors today after three years of construction. I cannot but think that General Lejeune—pugnacious, aggressive, and competitive—would approve and applaud our efforts to fulfill our commitment to physical excellence with the help of this beautiful new athletic facility.

EDWARD C. WALLER
Vice Admiral, United States Navy
Superintendent
United States Naval Academy





LEJEUNE HALL

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER: 1982

"It will be necessary for officers not only to devote their close attention to the many questions affecting the comfort, health, morals, religious guidance, military training, and discipline of the men under their command, but also to actively enlist the interest of their men in building up and maintaining their bodies in the finest physical condition; to encourage them to improve their professional knowledge and to make every effort by means of historical, educational, and patriotic addresses to cultivate in their hearts a deep abiding love of the Corps and Country."

JOHN A. LEJEUNE, 1930

Lejeune Hall is the latest addition to the U. S. Naval Academy's extensive athletic facilities. This impressive swimming and wrestling complex, which occupies the former Thompson Field, is named after the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lieutenant General John Archer Lejeune, a member of the Naval Academy Class of 1888. It is the first building at the Academy to be named for a Marine Corps officer. Although the \$13.5 million building is completely modern in conception and materials, its regularly placed columns and raised roof area compliment the traditional turn-of-the-century French Renaissance style campus with its vocabulary of granite walls and mansard roofs.

Athletics were formally introduced to the Naval Academy and made a part of the curriculum in 1865 by then superintendent Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter. Shortly thereafter, the first gymnasium was installed in the old Fort Severn building. The gymnasium was to last until 1909 when it was declared unsafe and demolished. It was during Porter's tenure that Midshipman Robert Means Thompson graduated with the Class of 1868. Thompson left the Navy in 1871 in order to pursue the American Dream. He made his fortune in copper and returned to aid the U. S. Naval Academy. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Naval Academy Auxiliary Athletic Association, the forerunner of the Naval Academy Athletic Association of today. Contributing generously from his personal fortune, Colonel Thompson was the major supporter of the Academy's athletic program for almost sixty years.

The years around the turn of the century witnessed the complete rebuilding of the Academy in accordance with the plans of architect Ernest Flagg. Forty-five acres of land-fill on the Severn River created Dewey Basin (now Dewey and Ingram Fields) while construction of Bancroft, Dahlgren, and Macdonough Halls proceeded. Macdonough Hall, completed as a water-connecting boat house (cutter shed) and seamanship facility in 1903, was converted to an athletic facility by 1908, which it remains to this day. The in-



"... I believe it to be almost universally accepted as sound policy that the cultivation of athletics in a military organization is extremely beneficial to the personnel from the standpoint both of improved physique and improved morale."

JOHN A. LEJEUNE, 1930



struction pool was included. By 1913, the Academy occupied all new buildings and it had grown to 111 acres from the original 10 acres of the old Fort Severn.

The year 1923 saw the Department of Physical Training established at the Academy. The next year was important as the Norman Scott Natatorium was opened and dedicated, some 13 years after swimming became a varsity sport. Scott Natatorium was to serve as the Academy's primary swimming facility for intercollegiate competition for 58 years until Lejeune Hall opened for classes in January of this year.

The next major addition to the athletic facilities was in 1929 when Hubbard Hall became the home of Navy crew. Shortly thereafter, in 1930, Colonel Thompson died and the stadium on Farragut Field was named in his honor. Thompson Stadium was to be home to the varsity football team for 29 years.

In 1941, the 22-plus acre Hospital Point landfill was added to the athletic facilities. At this time the 7½ acres adjacent to Thompson Stadium were purchased and set aside for the future, which turned out to be the site of Halsey Field House. In 1955, work on the new athletic field house was started. Quickly following in 1957 were the extension of Farragut Field towards the Bay and the creation of Dewey Field and Santee Basin. These projects added 53 acres of playing fields and, with other additions through the years, brought the Yard to over 287 acres. The Field House was completed in 1957 and a year later work commenced on the new Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. The Stadium was completed on 25 September 1959 in time for the '59 football season. Thompson Stadium's stands were then removed leaving the five acres of Thompson Field as the home of plebe football and varsity outdoor track. This was to last until the then unnamed Thompson Field Athletic Complex was begun in August 1979, and construction of new all-weather track and field facilities proceeded on Ingram Field. As the last major athletic



Midwaymen
Entrance

Midwaymen
Entrance





building completed for the Naval Academy, Lejeune Hall provides perhaps the finest combined intercollegiate swimming and wrestling facilities in the United States.

Lejeune Hall is a 95,000 square-foot steel, concrete, granite, and glass building. The exterior ramp leads spectators directly from the outside to a 1,000-seat viewing area with elevated seats located directly along the 25-meter course and the diving pool. Extensive glass walls surrounding the pool area on both levels allow passers-by a view of activities. The large 50 by 25 meter main pool has a constant depth of 8 feet. The pool is converted for long-course competition by hoisting the moveable bulkhead into a storage space in the ceiling at the end of the pool. The 52 by 60-foot diving pool is 16 feet deep under the diving boards and platforms and has three underwater viewing windows. There are 2 one-meter diving boards, 2 three-meter diving boards, and a diving tower with platforms at 5, 7½, and 10 meters. The Colorado Time Systems scoreboard and timing system is the most up-to-date automatic system used in the world.

The pools' machinery and filter room sump is 17 feet below the mean high tide mark of the Chesapeake Bay. The system automatically chlorinates and circulates 1,250,000 gallons every 6 hours while self cleaning the filters. Large air handlers provide a constant supply of conditioned air to prevent excessive humidity from building up and damaging the interior of the structure.

Lejeune Hall's 8,500 square-foot wrestling area features six wrestling rings, each with







"True education may be divided into three main branches. These may be described as the up-building of character; the developing of faculties of the mind; and the physical training of the body. They are stated in the order of their importance."

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE, USMC
SUPERINTENDENT, V.M.I., 1937







its own scoreboard. Folding bleachers seat 600 spectators. The area can further be divided into two small sections in order to hold separate classes in wrestling, judo, and personal defense. Included in the wrestling section are locker rooms, coaches' offices, and an equipment room.

Other facilities in Lejeune Hall include a complete Nautilus weight and strength training room, three saunas, and a classroom seating 120 people. Administrative offices of the Physical Education Department are located on the second floor. The wide western passageway will feature wall-hung trophy cases, a donation from the Class of 1944. This area will then become the main display area for the Academy's athletic trophies, memorabilia, and Hall of Fame now located in Macdonough Hall.

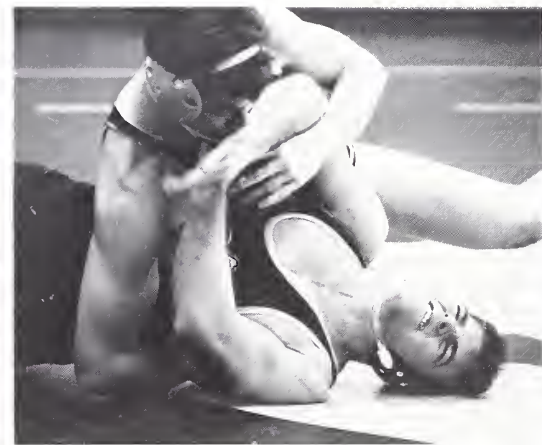
The grounds surrounding Lejeune Hall will feature three memorials, each donated by a Naval Academy class. Two are completed; one is still under construction.

THE CLASS OF 1940 MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN on the northeast quadrant of the grounds surrounding Lejeune Hall stands as a lasting memorial to all of those Naval Academy alumni who lost their lives in World War II. The 22-foot diameter pool is surrounded by a circular walk with a semi-circular bench on one side. Incorporated in the memorial is a time capsule containing memorabilia of the Class of 1940, to be opened by the President of the Naval Academy's second "4.0 Class" in 2040.

THE CLASS OF 1944 MEMORIAL PLAZA is located in the northwest quadrant of the Lejeune Hall grounds. In addition to enhancing the beauty of the Lejeune Hall complex, the plaza provides an attractive area for the rest and relaxation of midshipmen and visitors. Stone benches incorporating the crests of the Naval Academy and the Class of 1944 and a drinking fountain are among the plaza's features.

THE CLASS OF 1950 MEMORIAL PLAZA will be situated adjacent to the southwest corner of Lejeune Hall. Funding for this plaza was raised by the class on the occasion of their 30th anniversary of graduation from the Naval Academy. In addition to complementing Lejeune Hall, this landscaped plaza will also provide a permanent guide map to orient the hundreds of thousands of visitors who each year tour the Naval Academy Yard. The plaza will feature a large stone Naval Academy crest which was originally mounted on Isherwood Hall and was preserved when that building was demolished this past winter.

Lejeune Hall officially begins its history today. Thousands of present and future midshipmen will hone their swimming and self-defense skills while attending physical education classes in this outstanding building. The first Army-Navy swimming meet held here this past February saw Navy decisively defeat a heavily favored West Point team. The same month, Navy's wrestling team also did its part for tradition by capturing the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling League crown for the first time since 1974. It has been an auspicious start for this outstanding sports center.





LEJEUNE

OF THE U.S. NAVAL SERVICE: 1867-1942

God and man both tried, but neither could deprive the U. S. Marine Corps of its 13th Commandant. John Archer Lejeune was born 10 January 1867. He was taught at home by his mother until, at the age of 13, he went to a boarding school in Natchez, Mississippi. When the USS *Alliance* visited that city, Lejeune visited the ship. He was impressed by her smartness and her crew in full dress uniform. Among those on board was First Lieutenant George F. Elliott, later Major General Commandant of the Corps. Seeing the Marine officer's double-breasted frock coat and his sky-blue trousers, Lejeune left filled with dreams of trips across trackless oceans in ships flying the American flag.

From Natchez, Lejeune went to Louisiana State University. As a sophomore, he applied to the Naval Academy, which he entered in 1884 at the age of 17. Like most of the cadets of the period, he soon received a nickname. Lejeune's ancestors had gone from France to Nova Scotia and were resettled during the French and Indian War. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

BY
COLONEL
JAMES W. HAMMOND, JR.
U. S. Marine Corps (Retired)



Major John A. Lejeune, ca. 1903
Naval Cadet Lejeune (opposite page)
(front row, second from left) with the Naval
Academy football team, 1887

later immortalized the resettlement in "Evangeline," a poem about the life-long search for the lost Gabriel Lajeunesse by his sweetheart. As a plebe at the Academy, Lejeune had to memorize the epic and recite it to upperclassmen. The association of plebe and poem and the similarity of surnames earned him the nickname of Gabriel. He was "Gabe" the rest of his life.

On 8 June 1888, Lejeune was graduated from the Academy. His class would go to sea as passed midshipmen for two years, then assemble for examinations to fix class standing and determine future assignments. Lejeune went first to Mare Island for duty in the USS *Mohican*, then transferred in mid-January 1889 to the screw sloop *Vandalia*. She was to join Rear Admiral Louis A. Kimberly's Pacific Squadron in Apia, Samoa. Samoa and the Hawaiians were the last important islands in the Pacific not yet under foreign control. Trouble flared when the Germans attempted to gain control of one of the independent Polynesian kingdoms of Samoa. During the voyage south, Lejeune began the love affair of a lifetime when he com-



John Archer Lejeune, age 10

manded a pivot gun manned by marines.

The *Vandalia* put into Apia on 22 February 1889. The harbor teemed with men-of-war. The USS *Nipsic* was the only other American until the *Trenton*, Kimberly's flagship, arrived a few days later. A modern cruiser, HMS *Calliope*, represented the Queen. The Kaiser's squadron comprised the cruiser *Olga* and gunboats *Adler* and *Eber*. Several sailing traders were present as well. It had been quiet since December, and then the situation was turned upside down by an act of God.

On 14 March, a typhoon hit. Preparations were made to ride out the blow. Boilers were lit off and masts and rigging secured. Lejeune had the midwatch on the forecastle. He secured himself with a line and waited through the night. Dawn



Cadet Lejeune, Louisiana State University, 1882

showed that the harbor had been badly battered; most ships had dragged anchor. Included was the *Vandalia*, for her engines couldn't hold against the sea. She drifted down on the *Calliope's* ram, cleared it, and finally grounded 200 yards offshore. Waves pounded her, so Lejeune and others took to the rigging where their ordeal lasted several hours before they were rescued. The common experience made the adversaries forget the warlike tension, and a potential international crisis passed.

After surviving the disaster in Samoa, Lejeune returned to San Francisco. He finished his sea tour in the USS *Adams* and made another cruise to Samoa. He was happy to leave for Annapolis in March 1890 for final examinations. Lejeune had decided upon the Marine Corps

and was confident of the assignment. He explained his rationale:

"... I arrived at my choice chiefly by a process of elimination. First of all, I promptly eliminated the Engineer Corps, because I had no bent for mechanical engineering. The choice between the Line of the Navy and the Marine Corps was much more difficult ... I liked going to sea occasionally but not for the greater part of my life; I preferred the military to the naval side of my profession; ... and most important of all, I realized that whatever ability I had lay in the direction of handling and controlling men rather than ... handling and controlling machinery. From my own standpoint, therefore, the Marine Corps seemed to possess more advantages and less disadvantages than did the other branches of the naval service; and I made my decision accordingly."

Lejeune did very well on the examinations standing 13th of 35 in his class. He did so well, in fact, that Commodore George W. Melville, Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering, insisted that the academic board assign Lejeune to the Engineer Corps. He was considered too high in the class for the Marines. His pleas to superiors in the chain of command did no good, so he decided to go out of official channels. He visited Senators Randall Gibson and William Eaton Chandler. The latter was being beseeched by a classmate,

"(The new Plebes) They are taken as a whole a very poor looking lot—most of them are very small, and ought to have stayed at home a couple of years more."

NAVAL CADET JOHN A. LEJEUNE, 1885



Naval Cadet Lejeune (third from right, second row) and classmates, 1884



Naval Cadet Lejeune (far left) with his football teammates at practice, 1887. Fort Severn is visible in the background.

"We are splendidly looked after here. Tell Mama not to worry herself about my wearing flannel, as every morning at breakfast, the officer of each division asks each man if he has on woolen underclothing, if not, seven demerits."

NAVAL CADET JOHN A. LEJEUNE, 1884

H. O. Stickney, for a waiver of vision standards and a commission in the Engineer Corps. Lejeune offered his slot if he could get the Marine Corps. They called on Secretary of the Navy Benjamin Franklin Tracy. Lejeune was introduced as a survivor of the *Vandalia*. The case was presented logically and concisely. Tracy rang for the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation: "Commodore, I want this young man assigned to the Marine Corps." And so he was, thus foiling an Act of Man to keep him out of the Corps.

In the midst of a period of alternating tours of duty at sea and shore following his commissioning in 1890, Lejeune married Miss Ellie Murdaugh in October 1895. For his next sea duty, he requested the *Maine* but was assigned instead to the *Cincinnati*. When the executive officer of the *Cincinnati* told him that the duties of the marines on board would be curtailed, Lejeune appealed to the commanding officer for increased duties. His request was granted. This action was the first manifestation of Lejeune's life-long belief that the Navy needed marines—troops familiar with shipboard life and naval ways, able to conduct land operations in support of naval campaigns. Conversely, marines could not exist without a Navy. He was to build a new Marine Corps on that simple fact.

The *Cincinnati* was up the Amazon



U. S. Naval Cadet Lejeune, 1884

when news came of the *Maine's* destruction at Havana. The fickleness of assignments had kept the young officer from sharing her fate. His ship was involved in no action during the Spanish-American War, but when it was over he benefited through quick promotion from a law doubling the size of the Marine Corps.

A flurry of short assignments followed: an examining board in Washington; recruiting duty in New England; and command of the marine barracks at Pensacola. In January 1903, as a major, he was aide to the Adjutant and Inspector. Then he took

command of the "floating battalion" on board the USS *Panther* and was thus introduced to a forerunner of the Fleet Marine Force. Lejeune tried to work out satisfactory arrangements for training his men for service ashore—their primary mission—rather than the daily requirements of shipboard routine. He did not succeed until the battalion shifted to the USS *Dixie*. By then he had worked out a viable plan for embarked troops. It was adopted by an enlightened skipper who wished to get the job done. The *Dixie* landed her marines at Colon, Panama, and the battalion became part of the 1st Marines in the brigade commanded by George F. Elliott, the Brigadier General Commandant. In Panama, Lejeune successfully commanded his first large unit under adverse conditions of climate, environment, and sanitation.

By 1909, after further duty both in this country and overseas, Lejeune had been commissioned almost 20 years and was a lieutenant colonel. He had a fine service reputation for both energy and intelligence. He was a forward thinker. Thus, it was no surprise that his next assignment was discussed with him personally by General Elliott. He was assigned to the Army War College, returning to school for the first time since 1890.

He adopted Army procedures and by his own assertion was for all intents and purposes an Army officer during this period. There was one feature of the course that Lejeune particularly enjoyed. He felt the tactical rides to Civil War battlefields were most educational. The end of the course brought an outstanding report on his performance to General Elliott. It had



Naval Cadet Lejeune (third row, third from right) and classmates



Colonel Lejeune, 1913

"Be kindly and just in your dealings with your men. Never play favorites. Make them feel that justice tempered with mercy may always be counted on. This does not mean a slackening of discipline. Obedience to orders and regulations must always be insisted upon, and good conduct on the part of the men exacted. Especially should this be done with reference to the civilian inhabitants of foreign countries in which Marines are serving."

JOHN A. LEJEUNE, 1920

Major General Lejeune in New York with his troops after returning from France, 1919



a far-reaching effect on Lejeune's career and his subsequent assignment to France with the Army.

Graduation sent him to command the 500-man barracks at Brooklyn. There he encountered a discipline problem from drunkenness and post-payday absences. The new commanding officer, never one for slackness, immediately tightened ship.

Then in October 1913, came a flattering surprise. William P. Biddle, Elliott's successor as Commandant, asked to retire. The chief of the Bureau of Navigation invited Lejeune to be interviewed by Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels as a candidate. Probably because of his rank and age, he was not nominated, but he was recognized as having potential. Colonel George Barnett became the 12th Commandant in early 1914.

While Lejeune was at Brooklyn (1909-14), the "floating battalion" which he had led into Panama helped further the Marine Corps as a vital arm of the fleet. Technology had changed the entire role of marines within the naval service. Long-range guns opened up the distances at which ships engaged. There was no need for riflemen in the rigging to rake enemy decks. Sail had given way to steam. Steam required coal which had to be stocked at advanced bases. Bases had to be defended or, if not ours, seized and defended. Marines had a new mission.

In 1913, the General Board and the War College planned the 1914 fleet maneuvers. As part of the exercise, the Advanced Base Force was to occupy and defend the Caribbean island Culebra as a fleet base. On Thanksgiving Day, Lejeune was ordered to whip the 2nd Marines (previously a



General Lejeune with Second Marine Division staff at Marbach, ca. 1918

regiment only on paper) into shape at Pensacola. Captain William F. Fullam, USN, never a lover of marines, was anxious to command the Advance Base Force. He argued that marines needed outside "urging" and "driving" to accomplish such a mission. Rear Admiral Charles J. Badger, commanding the Atlantic Fleet, disagreed. He was vindicated by the success of the marines.

The force returned to Pensacola. The brigade commander, Barnett, left to become Commandant. Barnett offered Lejeune the post of Assistant Commandant. Lejeune asked for a delay, feeling that there was trouble coming in Mexico. Marines would be in action, and Lejeune wanted to be with them. Ships' detach-

ments were sent ashore to deal with troubles at Tampico and Veracruz. Army Major General Frederick Funston commanded ashore. Lejeune suggested to Admiral Badger, an old shipmate from the *Cincinnati*, that the ships' detachments embark but that the Advance Base Force remain with the Army. Approval was secured from Washington. When Colonel Littleton W. T. Waller arrived to command the brigade, Lejeune resumed command of the 2nd Marines. Service with the Army was good experience.

The return from Mexico brought the duty proposed by Barnett. On 2 January 1915, Lejeune became Assistant Commandant. In his first six months, with the Commandant away, Lejeune was called

"He (Lejeune) commanded his Division with great ability in the attack on Blanc Mont (3-9 October 1918), seizing in a few hours a position of vital importance and capturing 1800 prisoners and a large quantity of military material."

MARSHALL PETAIN
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE
FRENCH ARMIES OF THE EAST
NOVEMBER 30, 1918



General Lejeune being congratulated by General John J. Pershing, Heddesdorf, Germany, 1918

upon by the Navy to provide an expeditionary force for immediate service in Haiti. A fine point in amphibious command relationships was solved for future reference. Colonel Waller was ready to command all troops of the brigade ashore. Rear Admiral William B. Caperton desired that control of each unit ashore be vested in the commanding officer of the ship at anchor off that town. Lejeune appealed to Caperton's fleet superior, Admiral William Benson, that the principle of unity of command ashore be maintained. Benson overruled Caperton. The Haitian brigade was under a single commander. Marines gained fighting experience and the Corps a combat reputation.

Two other problems, ones which did not involve combat, were ably handled by Lejeune during that period. The first was personnel. He and Assistant Navy Secretary Franklin D. Roosevelt came up with a bill as part of the Naval Appropriation Act of 1916. The Marine Corps was increased to 15,000 with the President authorized to add 2,400 more. It also meant immediate promotion to brigadier general for Lejeune. A major recruiting effort was made to fill the expanded ranks. The second problem was that of facilities for an expanded Corps. Marines had been scattered in barracks and detachments in navy yards. The inno-

vation of having the 2nd Marines in readiness in the Philadelphia Navy Yard had shown its value during the expedition to Haiti in 1915. Navy yards, however, are industrial complexes serving the fleet. They lack terrain for training. Thus, marines were authorized to acquire facilities at San Diego and at Quantico.

When war was declared in April 1917, President Woodrow Wilson astonished the nation by calling for an Army of 1.5 million men. It was decided to send an Army division and a Marine regiment to France at once. Lejeune now faced a dilemma. He had long been an advocate of the Marine Corps as an arm of the Navy, but the nation was now committed to a land war in Europe. Gallipoli had ruined the case for amphibious war, and European fleets did not need advanced bases. Yet, if the Corps was to survive, it needed to be part of the action. Daniels solved part of the problem by detaching the 5th and 6th Marines for service with the Army. Lejeune's new problem was how to get to France.

The first step was to leave Washington. Barnett was suspicious of his motives, but Lejeune convinced him of his genuine desire to lead marines in action. In September 1917, Lejeune went to Quantico to train marines for service with the Allied armies. New regiments were formed, and the 4th Marine Brigade went to France. Thinkers at Quantico talked of a full Marine division. Lejeune saw merit in the idea and hoped to implement it overseas. First he had to get there.

Opportunity came when the brigade commander, Brigadier General Charles A. Doyen, was invalided home. Lejeune as-



General Lejeune being presented the Croix de Guerre by General Neville in Germany, 1918



General Lejeune (center) in Virginia with President Harding, Secretary of the Navy Edwin Denby and Brigadier General Smedley Butler at the Marine reenactment of the Civil War's Battle of the Wilderness, 1921.

sured Barnett that if sent, he would fare well. He knew General John J. Pershing and Brigadier General James G. Harbord, two Army officers he had encountered in the Philippines; War College classmates were in high places. In late May, he sailed; with him was Earl H. "Pete" Ellis, with whom he had served on Barnett's small staff and at Quantico. General Pershing interviewed Lejeune and turned down the idea of a Marine division. In mid-June, Lejeune visited the 4th Marine Brigade fresh from Belleau Wood. He talked to their commander, Army Brigadier General Harbord. In July, Lejeune got the 64th Brigade of the 32nd Infantry Division. Ellis was his operations officer.

On 14 July, Harbord was promoted to command the 2nd Infantry Division. Command of its Marine Brigade was open, and it went to Lejeune on 25 July. Three days later, Harbord sent for him. Pershing had ordered Harbord to straighten out the service of supply, and Harbord recommended that Lejeune succeed him in command of the 2nd Infantry Division. The only problem was rank. The latest naval appropriation act had provided for another major general. The President promoted Lejeune with immediate effect.

By September, the 2nd Infantry Division had replaced the men who suffered from the heavy casualties of the summer battles at Soissons and Belleau Wood.

From the 12th to 17th, it led the attack to reduce the St. Mihiel salient. Because of headlines, Belleau Wood was the legendary Marine Corps action of World War I. More decisive and just as deadly was the fighting of October 1918. The division jumped off on 3 October toward Blanc Mont. In seven days, the division accomplished what the French hadn't been able to do in four years—broken the German position and forced a 40-kilometer retreat. The 2nd Division returned to the 1st Army.

The Meuse-Argonne offensive had stalled. To get it going, Lejeune's division was to lead the assault of the forward corps. They moved out after heavy artillery preparation. Initial objectives fell quickly, and their advance through the Hindenberg Line became a stern chase. The day before the Armistice, the 5th Marines were across the Meuse.

The guns fell silent. Lejeune led his division back to New York in the summer of 1919 and then reported to Quantico, relieving Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler. Then Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels dropped a bombshell. To the surprise of all, especially General Barnett, he announced that on 1 July

"The spirit of comradeship and brotherhood-in-arms which has traditionally existed throughout the ranks of the Marine Corps is a vital characteristic of the Corps. It must be fostered and kept alive and made the moving force in all Marine Corps organizations."

JOHN A. LEJEUNE, 1930

1920, John A. Lejeune would become the Major General Commandant. The appointment was part of the President's policy to reward promising officers for war service. The Senate adjourned before confirming Lejeune. Despite the lack of assurance of tenure in the job, the new Commandant turned to.

It was a demanding job to offset the postwar letdown and keep the Corps functioning and ready for expeditionary service with the Navy. The 5th and 6th Marines were reorganized and in readiness at Quantico. The principle under

which Lejeune operated was simple: "The good of the Corps, combined with the just treatment of all officers and men, was paramount and, therefore took precedence over all other considerations." From this flowed many things. Officers' military education was essential. Hence schools were established: at Philadelphia for second lieutenants; at Quantico, one for company grade and one for field grade officers. Athletics, especially baseball and football, were stressed. They helped morale and provided exposure which recruited the men the Marine Corps wanted.

The minimum age was raised to 21 and physical standards were rigid. Enlisted marines finally became eligible for the Naval Academy.

The Harding administration was about to replace the Democrats. The new secretary was Edwin Denby. He had enlisted in the Marine Corps, been commissioned, and fought at Blanc Mont. He asked Lejeune to stay. Thus, the day after inauguration, 5 March 1921, Lejeune was confirmed by the Senate for a four-year term. Among the things facing him were problems within the officer ranks. War expansion saw



General Lejeune at Camp Meade, Maryland, 1925



Major General Lejeune, Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute and faculty, 1930

"Man has always been and still is a fighting animal, and our safety and happiness require that substitutes for war or for armed conflict should be found."

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE, USMC
SUPERINTENDENT, V.M.I., 1937

many officers, particularly in France, promoted rapidly. Adjustments were required. What Lejeune wanted but never got was a selection system such as the one the Navy had had since 1916. Despite repeated requests, the Corps was stuck with a system of rigid seniority. Promotions depended on deaths, resignations, or retirements.

While Lejeune was adjusting the Marine

Corps to peacetime, he was also directing its preparations for the next war. Wendell "Buck" Neville, a future commandant, headed a planning section. "Pete" Ellis was chief planner. He produced a document called "Operation Plan 712, Advanced Base Operations in Micronesia." Lejeune approved it on 23 July 1921. It was more concept and philosophy than the detailed plans we think of today. It began prophetically: "In order to impose our will upon Japan, it will be necessary for us to project our fleet and land forces across the Pacific and wage war in Japanese waters." It reflected naval thinking, particularly what was being taught at the Naval War College. Thus, it accurately gave a scheme of maneuver of a drive

across the central Pacific to Japan, defeating Japan's fleet and leaving that country at the mercy of our naval power. The Pacific war was going to be a naval campaign, and OpPlan 712 spelled out the land operations required of marines to seize and defend advanced bases for the fleet. It is a remarkable document and a definitive testimony to Lejeune's belief in the position of marines within the naval service. In 1922, landing exercises were held on Culebra; in 1923 in Panama. These were the prelude to ones on a broader scale. A brigade was in the 1924 fleet exercises. Marines were developing doctrine for the years ahead.

It was not all development and training. Trouble came in bundles. China and Nicaragua erupted in 1927. Expeditions were mounted for both. China turned into a show of force lasting a year. Nicaragua would be a six-year struggle against the *sandinistas* and the jungle and a training ground for World War II combat leaders.

By 1929, Lejeune had served two full terms and part of a third as Commandant but had not reached mandatory retirement age. Friends wanted him to stay on. He demurred and on 5 March 1929, after more than 45 years in uniform, retired. He had first planned to stay on active duty, but he was offered the superintendency of Virginia Military Institute. He remained there until 1937, inspiring half of a generation and doubtlessly recruiting many for his Corps. He was still physically fit when he decided to step down because he "... had reached the magical Biblical age of three score and ten."

In April 1942, Congress authorized that officers who had served with distinction

be recognized, and in August Lejeune was promoted to lieutenant general on the retired list. That same month, his long-held dream for the Marine Corps came true when the 1st Marine Division landed on Tulagi and Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The mission was to seize, occupy, and defend an advanced base, Henderson Field. The battle for the Solomons became one of the longest naval campaigns in our history. Marines were responsible for many of the land operations involved. Later, marines followed the path of OpPlan 712 across the Central Pacific to help the fleet advance steadily toward Japanese waters.

After a three-week illness, Lieutenant General John Archer Lejeune, United States Marine Corps (Retired), died on 20 November 1942 in Union Methodist Hospital, Baltimore. He was survived by his widow, three daughters, and tens of thousands of marines, many yet unborn.

COLONEL JAMES W. HAMMOND, JR. was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1951. As a platoon leader he was wounded in Korea. Subsequently, he was an instructor at Basic School, company commander, aide to Major General David M. Shoup in 3d Marine Division, and editor and publisher of the *Marine Corps Gazette*. He commanded 2d Battalion 4th Marines in Vietnam until wounded; when recovered, he was plans officer, 3d Marine Division. He instructed at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, was public affairs officer and then plans officer of Fleet Marine Force Pacific. He retired in 1975. Colonel Hammond has an M.A. (International Law) from Catholic University and an M.A. (Journalism) from the University of Nevada-Reno. He is now enrolled in a doctoral program in American history and writing *The Treaty Navy*, a history of the naval services between the two World Wars.



SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF

ATHLETICS

AT THE

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

1867-1982



1867

First recorded organized athletic activity at Academy. Under Superintendent David D. Porter, gymnastics, fencing, boxing, and sabre practices and exhibitions were conducted in newly decked-over Old Fort Severn. President and Mrs. Grant were Admiral Porter's guests at one of these early exhibitions.

1868

Midshipman Robert M. Thompson graduated. Later, as a wealthy industrialist, Thompson (for whom Thompson Stadium was later named) was to provide lavish financial support to Academy Athletics for almost 50 years. Thompson credited with attending 55 graduations.

1879

First "football" game (British-type), a 0-0 tie, versus Baltimore A.C. Played in Superintendent's cow pasture.

1882

First American-style football game against Clifton Club (Hopkins students) of Baltimore. Averaging 150 pounds/man, Navy won 8-0. Mids formed Academy's "Athletic Association" following game. Dues were 50 cents.

1888

Naval Cadet John A. Lejeune graduated. An enthusiastic member of the varsity football team, he later said to the cadets at VMI: "... I confess, here and now, that my only football experience was as an obscure player on the second team at the Naval Academy which was organized for practice games against the first team."

1890

"N's" awarded for first time following first Army-Navy game (played at West Point). Navy won, 24-0. Navy colors were red and white. A goat "borrowed by mids from the quarters of a West Point non-com" was temporarily pressed into services as Academy's first mascot.

1891

To protect an injured ear, Midshipman J. M. Reeves, Class of 1894, designed and wore the world's first football helmet.

1892

Blue and Gold officially adopted as Navy colors. A goat, "Bill Galina of Magnolia Bluffs," becomes first goat to be officially adopted as Navy's mascot.

1893

Navy's first eight-oared varsity crew formed. Navy crews later captured Olympic gold medals in Antwerp in 1920 and in Helsinki in 1952.

1901

First Army-Navy baseball game won by Army at the Point by a score of 4-3. MacArthur (General) "scored from third on a long fly."

1904

Track and rifle and pistol became varsity sports. First rifle match was against Maryland National Guard. Navy won third consecutive IC4A track title in 1946. Navy's pistol team has won national intercollegiate titles in each of the last seven years (through 1982).

1907

First varsity basketball game. (In 1933, Midshipman C. E. Laughlin was to score 25 points—more than entire Army team—in Navy's 51-24 victory.)

1908

Varsity lacrosse started (unofficially) by Midshipmen. From 1960-1967, Navy won a record eight consecutive national championships.

1909

Wrestling became a varsity sport. Navy was to have 19 varsity wrestlers (or graduates) on various U. S. Olympic teams, including eight on the 1920 team. Joe Henson (136½ lbs.) and Pete Blair (191) won bronze medals in 1952 and Lloyd Keaser (149½) won a silver in 1976. Navy has won 10 Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Championships (1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1974, and 1982).

1911

Swimming became a varsity sport. Navy hosted national championships in 1924 (in newly completed Scott Natatorium) and topped all collegiate teams in 1925 and 1926. Three Navy swimmers have been members of Olympic teams. Robert E. Cowell (Class of '47) won a silver medal in 100-yd backstroke in 1947.

New football field, track, and stands were completed adjacent to Bancroft Hall. Known through the years as "Buchanan Field" or "Farragut Field" and even "The Happy Apple Orchard," it was formally dedicated as Thompson Stadium in 1931.

1920

Navy's varsity gymnastics teams won six consecutive intercollegiate championships, starting in 1920.

Boxing became an intercollegiate sport (reverted to present Brigade status in 1940).

1921

Soccer revived from earlier efforts in the 1913-15 period. Outstanding soccer team in the nation, 1945. Sixty consecutive victories over a six-year, 48-game span in the early 60's.



1926

Navy clinched undefeated football season and National Championship as they tied Army 21-21 in Chicago with a last minute extra point kicked by Midshipman Tom Hamilton. The game marked the dedication of Soldiers' Field.

Through the years, Navy has participated in the following bowls: Rose (1924), Sugar (1955), Cotton (1958 & 1964), Orange (1961), Holiday (1978), Garden State (1980), and Liberty (1981). Midshipman Joe Belino won the Heisman Trophy in 1960 and Roger Staubach won it in 1963.

1976

Eighty-one women were admitted to the Naval Academy in accordance with newly passed legislation authorizing "admission of women to the service academies consistent

with the needs of the services." Volleyball was the first women's varsity team formed (1976-77). Basketball and fencing followed the next year. In addition to these, today's women's varsity teams include swimming, indoor and outdoor track, and crew. Women midshipmen are also currently members of the Academy's varsity sailing and pistol teams.

1980

First track meet held at Ingram Field's new all-weather track and field facilities built to replace former facilities at Thompson Field. Navy defeated Manhattan, 107-56.

1981

Varsity sailing team won fifth consecutive North American intercollegiate sailing championship (Fowle Trophy).

LEJEUNE

H A L L

*"Your success this year, and all the other years
of your lives will, then, depend on your industry, your will-power
and your self control."*

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE, USMC
SUPERINTENDENT, V.M.I., 1937

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PRIVATE CONTRIBUTORS

Naval Academy Class of 1940

Naval Academy Class of 1944

Naval Academy Class of 1950

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